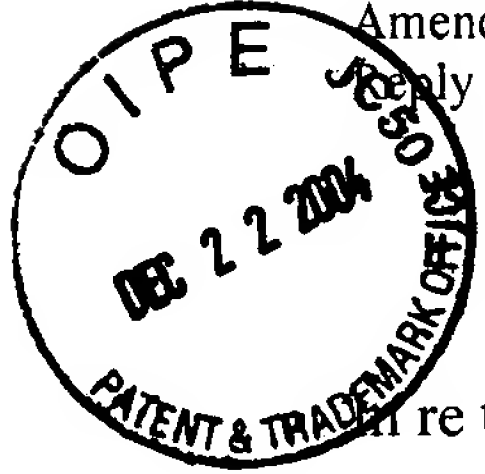


12 27-04

3732 #

[Handwritten signature]

Appln. No.: 09/994,088
Amendment dated December 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed July 22, 2004



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Trudeau

Serial No.: 09/994,088

Filed: November 14, 2001

For: Method And Apparatus For Clamping
Surgical Wires Or Cables

Atty. Docket No.: 004608.00003

Group Art Unit: 3732

Examiner: Michael B. Priddy

Confirmation No.: 8571

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed July 22, 2004. The Office Action set a three month deadline, making this paper due by **October 22, 2004**. Please reconsider the application in view of the amendments and remarks that follow.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 14 of this paper.